

Upazila roundup

Barisal
Plan to set up 47,000 latrines

January 16: Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department has undertaken a programme to set up about 47,000 low-cost sanitary latrines in 11 districts during the current financial year, reports UNB.

Of the total, 7,600 latrines will be set up in Barisal, 3200 in Jhalakati, 5100 in Pirojpur, 6800 in Patuakhali, 3005 in Bogura, 4800 in Auli, 2650 in Madaripur, 3900 in Shariatpur, 3350 in Gopalganj, 2500 in Rajbari and 4200 in Bhola.

According to official sources, the pre-fabricated latrines has concrete slabs and some rings which can be set up easily. Slabs and rings are sold in the district and upazila offices of Public Health Engineering.

PHE has already sold about 2197 latrines.

Tubewells
A scheme is underway to install 5,318 tubewells to facilitate drinking water supply in 11 southern districts during the current fiscal.

Funded by UNICEF, the programme will be implemented by Public Health Engineering Department (PHE).

According to official sources, of the total, 4,201 are deep and the rest are shallow tubewells.

District-wise allocation of tubewells are: Barisal 1,125 deep and 86 shallow tubewells, Patuakhali 598 deep, Bhola 140 deep and 260 shallow, Barguna 334 deep, Jhalakathi 640 deep and 36 shallow, Pirojpur 361 deep and 114 shallow, Madaripur 47 deep and 202 shallow, Shariatpur 290 deep and 149 shallow, Gopalganj 30 deep and 16 shallow, Faridpur 316 deep and Rajbari 320 deep and 204 shallow tubewells.

Honours courses in Brojmohon College
BSS adds: Honours courses in seven other subjects will be introduced to the government Brojmohon College from the 1990-91 session.

According to an official source, honours will be taught in English, mathematics, soil science, social science, philosophy, zoology and botany.

With this introduction the students will have the opportunity to study honours courses in 16 subjects and masters in 12 subjects in the college.

Bhola
Maternity centre in a mess

January 16: The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Lalmonohar upazila here is plagued with various problems, reports UNB.

According to sources, inadequate water supply, lack of proper maintenance of the building and shortage of doctors, medicines and beds in the centre have been hampering medicare of the patients.

There is no provision for running water and the lone tubewell in the compound often remains out of order.

In addition, on duty doctors are rarely seen in the centre. Patients are packed like sardines on the floor due to lack of accommodation.

Sufferers say they are to buy emergency medicines from markets at exorbitant prices.

Kushtia
Roads in bad shape

January 16: Two highways connecting the district with Jhenidah and Meherpur are in a bad shape causing untold suffering to the travellers and damaging vehicles, reports UNB.

Innumerable cracks and potholes have developed at different points on kushtia-Jhenidah and Kushtia-Meherpur roads making journey by vehicles hazardous and risky.

Transport owners say they are to sustain economic losses as vehicles are being damaged after plying on the roads.

In addition, accidents have become frequent.

Roads and highways authorities say a foreign firm, which was given the work order to reconstruct the Kushtia-Jhenidah road, is yet to start the work.

Fund constraints have also slowed down the progress of reconstruction of Kushtia-Meherpur.

Comilla
Arms recovered

January 16: Eighteen firearms and other lethal weapons were recovered by Devdwar, Muradnagar and Daudkandi police last week.

from different parts of the district, reports UNB.

The seized arms included 2 SMGs, six pistols, 10 pipeguns, one sword and a knife.

The arms were left abandoned at different parts of three upazilas in the district.

Another report from the district says that 75 cataract patients including 15 women were operated upon and another 1500 eye patients given treatment in a 10-day eye camp held here recently.

The camp was jointly organised by Nangalkote Jana kalyan Sangstha and BNSB Pahartal, Chittagong.

Bhuapur
Flood protection embankment

January 16: The work for a road-cum-flood protection embankment to be built on the eastern end of the Jamuna Multi-Purpose Bridge at a place named Gobindashit under Bhuapur Upazila, was inaugurated Tuesday through holding a Milad Mahfil, a press release in Dhaka said, reports BSS.

Mr. Shaful Alam, Vice-Chairman of the Jamuna Multi-Purpose Bridge Authority, inaugurated the work. Others present on the occasion were MR. Najem Ahmad Choudhury, Secretary, Roads and Road Transport Division, Mr. M. A. Bari, Chief Engineer, Roads and Highways Division and Mr. Abdul Monem, owner of the contracting firm, A. M. L. Monto.

Mr. Shaful Alam urged the local government administration including the Tangail District Administration to cooperate in the implementation of this construction work.

Netrakona
Law, order situation reviewed

January 16: A meeting of the District Development Co-ordination Commissioner Committee was held here recently with the Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona in the chair, reports BSS.

An official source said, progress of various on-going development projects undertaken in education, agriculture, health and family planning, communications and other sectors was discussed in the meeting.

Law and order situation in the district was also reviewed in the meeting. All the district-level officers attended.

Chandpur
Jubo Sanghati leader freed

January 16: Convener of the district Jatiya Jubo Sanghati Advocate Iqbal Bin Bashar was released on Tuesday on bail, reports UNB.

He was taken to custody on January 9 after his bail petition in a case was rejected by the Sadar Upazila Magistrate Court.

His release was hailed with a procession brought out in the town by JP supporters, who also chanted slogans in favour of Jatiya Party Chairman Hussain Muhammad Ershad.

Later, addressing a meeting at the local Pura Park, the JP leaders demanded release of the deposed President.

Dinapur
Woman trafficker arrested

January 16: Kulsum (13), was rescued and a woman trafficker Rabi Das arrested from a house under Phulbaria upazila Police said, reports UNB.

The victim was rescued while she was being smuggled into India by Rabi who allegedly bought Kulsum from her brother-in-law at Taka 2000.

Acting on a tip off Phulbaria Police raided the house of Mahruddin in the upazila and arrested the trafficker.

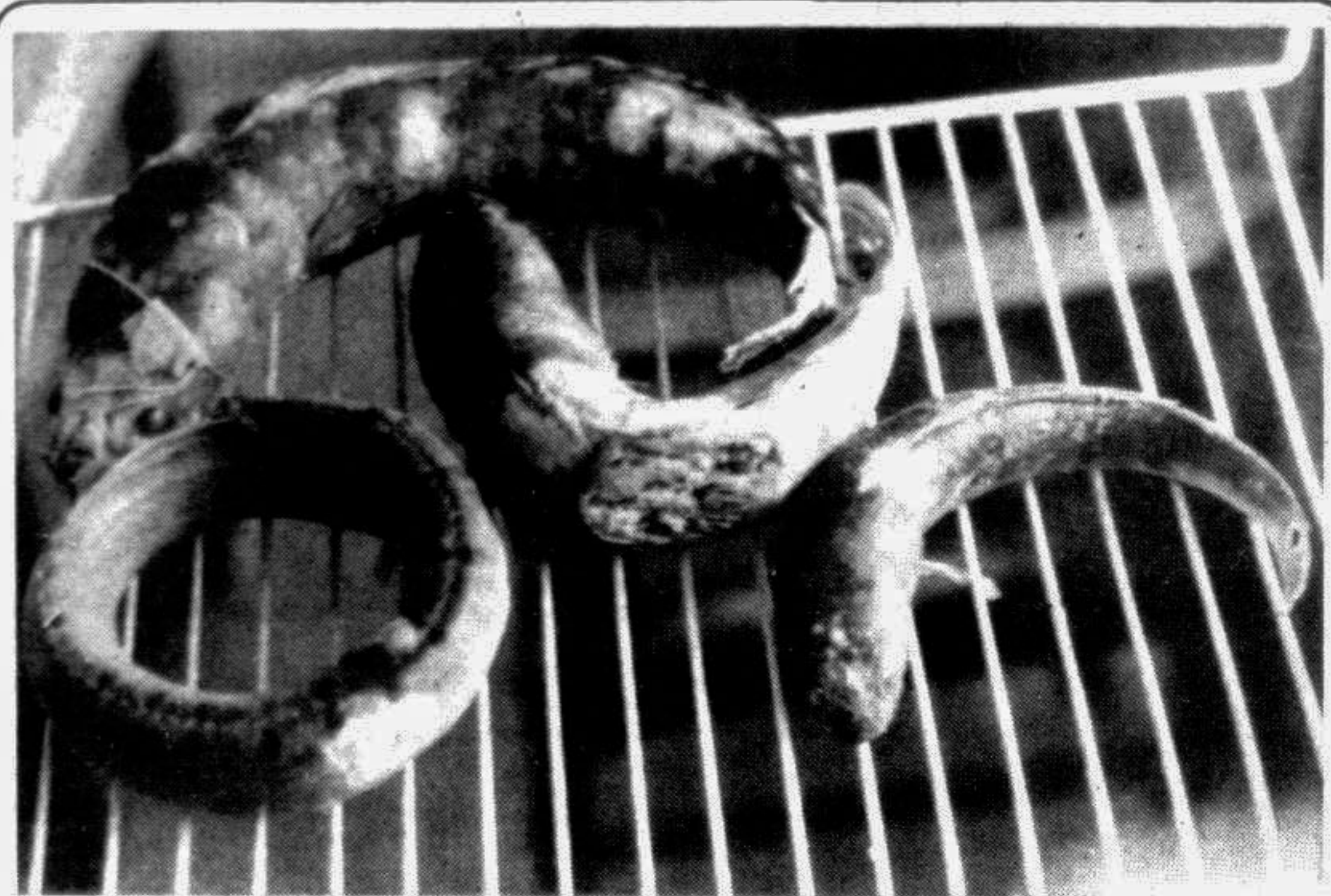
Kulsum was made the second wife of a local rich man by her father against her will but she used to live with her sister.

Jhenidah
Distressed families given loan

January 16: Government has disbursed Taka 64,000 loan among 122 landless families of Shalukupa upazila here to make them self-reliant, reports UNB.

Social Welfare Department distributed the amount under Gramoon Shela project as interest-free loan on Wednesday.

According to sources, each of the distressed families from nine villages of the upazila was given between Taka 500 and 1000 to make them self-reliant.



Fish affected with ulcerative syndrome. —Star photo

Fish disease breaks out in epidemic form

MAULAWI BAZAR, Jan 16: Fish diseases have broken out in an epidemic form adversely affecting consumers in the district, reports UNB.

According to informed sources, the diseases known as "Ulcerative Syndrome" have affected different varieties of fish like kot, ruhi, puti, magur, shoal, gazar, shing, kalibaush, boal, bheda and kholsa.

The worst affected areas are: Barlekha, Kulaura, Kamalganj and Rajnagar upazilas.

Fish traders said demand for fish had abruptly fallen in the local markets causing them economic loss.

Nutrition experts feared that low-paid, who mostly live on fish, are likely to suffer from protein deficiency following outbreak of fish diseases.

Local people called on the authorities to spray lime water to the affected waterbodies to contain the menace.

A report from Brahmanbaria adds: The prospect of fish production is bleak because of indiscriminate catching of fry in the district.

According to sources, a section of unscrupulous fishermen are catching fish fry like ruhi, katal, mrigel from rivers, ponds, canals and beels with current nets despite government ban.

Catching of fish fry under nine inches is prohibited in the government law.

In addition, outbreak of fish disease known as "ulcerative syndrome" has adversely affected the consumers.

Another report from Chapainawabganj says: In an attempt to augment fish production, Fisheries Department has undertaken a scheme to release about 1.20 crore fish fry in different waterbodies of 16 districts of Rajshahi division in the current season.

According to official sources, 6.31 lakh fish fry will be released in Chapainawabganj, 7.31 lakh in Rajshahi, 7.57 lakh in Naogaon, 26.68 lakh in Natore, 10.55 lakh in Bogra, 7 lakh in Joypurhat, nine lakh in Pabna, 9.68 lakh in Sirajganj, 3.15 lakh in Rangpur, 4.34 lakh in Gaibandha, 2.10 lakh in Nilphamari, 4.50 lakh in Lalmonirhat, 8.60 lakh in Kurigram, 3.85 lakh in Dinapur, 3.15 lakh in Thakurgaon and 4.50 lakh in Panchagarh districts.

With the successful implementation of the scheme, protein deficiency in the districts will be met to a great extent.

Sherpur
Fish production is sharply declining due to rampant catching of fish fry in the district.

Some dishonest fishermen in collusion with local influential people are catching fish fry below nine inches violating government ban, according to sources.

Fry of Ruhi, Katal, Mrigel and Silver carp are being caught indiscriminately by 'current' nets in Nalitabari, Sreebordi, Norka, Jhenighati and Sadar upazilas.

Meanwhile, the fisheries department has released eight lakh fish fry in the waterbodies of the district under open water pisciculture programme.

Another report says: Education in the Sherpur Government Girls' High School has been hampered by shortage of teachers, furniture, classrooms and library facilities.

There are 20 teachers in the school for about 480 students. Nine posts of teachers has been lying vacant for the last three years.

Besides, the school housed in an old building has become risky for the students. Rain water enters classrooms through cracked ceiling dampening the walls.

Established in 1949, the school was nationalised in 1981 but the authorities did not take any step to solve the problems.

Pabna jail inmates resent shabby treatment

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, Jan 16: A recently released prisoner informed this correspondent that in Pabna District Jail, under trial and convicted prisoners are not getting proper treatment and food.

In this jail total number of prisoners is about 900 and out of this about 100 are heroin addicts and 20 are mentally distressed. About 100 ailing prisoners also remain throughout the year in the jail. In this Jail 20 bedded hospital has one assistant surgeon.

Tahsilders realise excess money

From Our Correspondent
KURIGRAM, Jan 16: Almost all the nine Tahsil offices in the district are in a pitiable condition. The buildings where huge volume of land records and other important documents are stacked have become too old.

Documents which were kept on the floors for want of shelves have been badly damaged and will serve no purpose. This has caused public sufferings. It is also alleged that a section of the unscrupulous employees of Tahsil offices realise excess money from the landowners during collection of taxes and other land revenues.

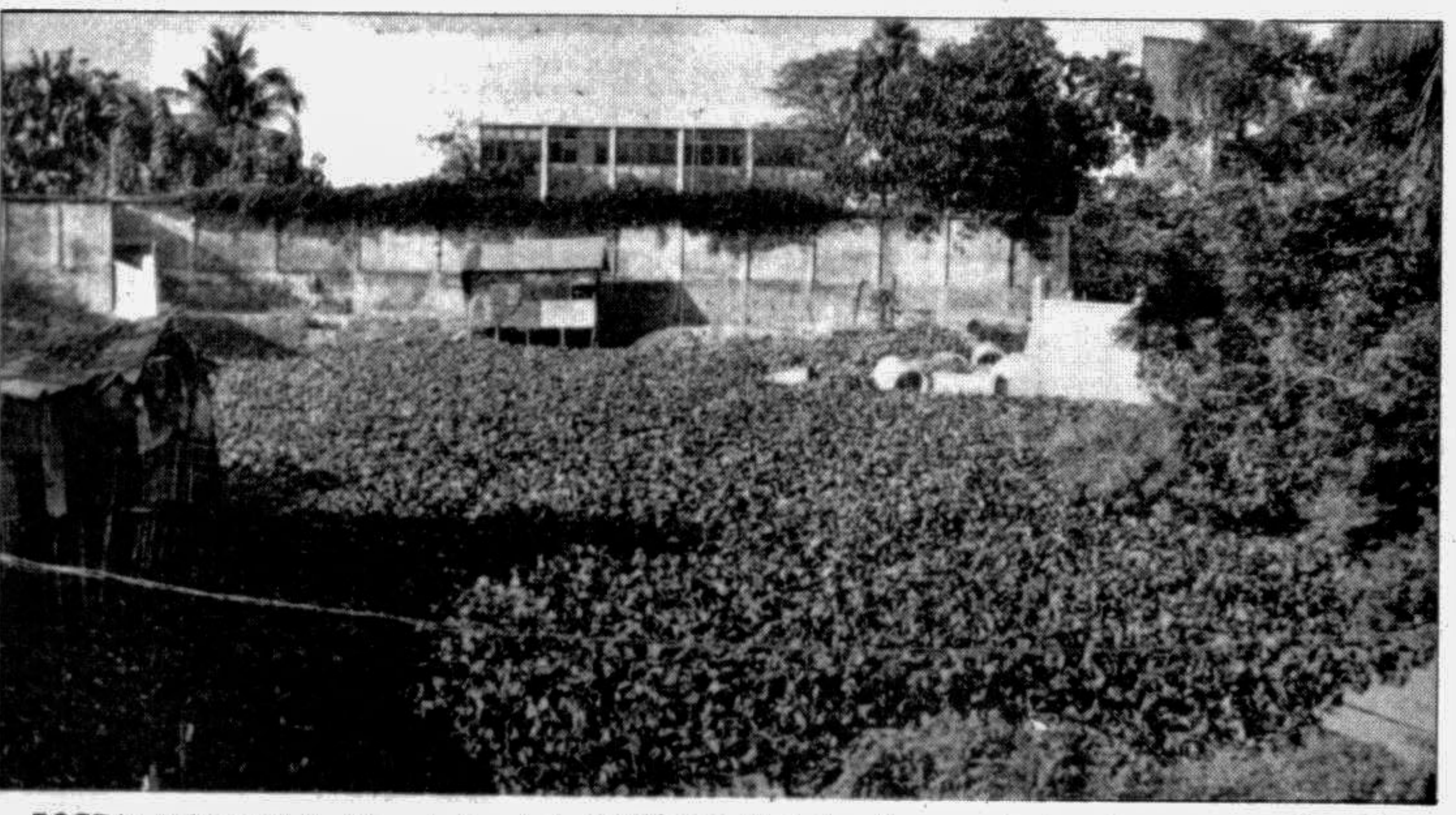
Bouddha Parishad formed in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: Bangladesh Upajatiya Bouddha Parishad was formed at a meeting of prominent Buddhists, held recently at Rangamati, reports BSS.

According to a Press release of the Parishad here today, the new organisation world work for the development of Tribal Buddhists' culture, religion and socio-economic conditions.

A nine-member temporary committee was constituted for the parishad with Mr. Sadhan Manik Karbari as President, Mr. Suniti Bikas Chakma as General Secretary and Mr. Nabakumar Tanchangya as Treasurer.

A full-fledged committee will be formed for the parishad by April 30, the press release added.



BOGRA: A ditch filled with waterhyacinth provides an ideal place for mosquito breeding. —Star photo

Cooperative bank loan recovery suspended

CHITTAGONG, Jan 16: Realisation of outstanding loan amounting to about Taka 72 lakhs disbursed by the Patisa Central Co-operative Bank has been suspended by order from higher authorities.

According to a source the members of cooperative societies here have been taken back by the sudden suspension of the loan recovery programme.

Bank authorities say, TK 26 lakh are lying outstanding with 19 co-operative societies in Patisa, 9.48 lakh against 10 societies in Satkania, TK 21 lakh against 20 societies in Chandaish, TK 1.6 lakh against two societies in Boalkhal.

Obituary
From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Jan 15: Mr. Abdur Rahman Mia, retired District and Sessions Judge, died of heart failure at his Madaripur residence recently. He was 61.

He left behind his widow, three sons, three daughters and many admirers to mourn his death.

247 accidental deaths in Barisal last year

From Our Correspondent
BARISAL, Jan 16: Two hundred forty-seven persons died in several accidents last year in three southern districts of the country Barisal, Patuakhali and Bhola.

Out of the total, 217 persons died in boat, trawler and launch accidents, 5 persons in marine accidents and 25 persons in other accidents.

It is to be mentioned here that these accounts exclude the death figures relating to land disputes, personal enmity, crops dispute.

Thirty four vehicles including launches, trawlers and fishing boats and ferry boats have been sunk due to tornado, over loading of passengers and collisions.

Properties worth more than Taka 20 lakh including cash money and 10 rifles were looted by dacoits during this period.

7,40,177 immunized
A total of 7,40,177 children and expectant mothers were immunized in 10 upazilas of the district under Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) during the 1989-90 financial year. Upazilas are Barisal Sadar, Gournadi, Agailjhara, Bakerganj, Muladi, Banaripara, Babuganj, Hizla, Mechediganj and Uzirpur.

According to an official source, the immunization programme covered children, pregnant women and mothers against diphtheria, tuber-culosis, whooping cough, polio, measles and tetanus.

Out of the total 86,198 children were given DPT injection, 86,127 Oral Polio Vaccines (OPV), 69,482 measles vaccines and the rest 95,334 were given BCG vaccines.

Besides, 63,917 expectant mothers and 3,79,119 mothers were given Tetanus Toxoid (T.T) injections under this programme.

About 100 immunization centres were opened at different places of these upazilas. The programme was implemented under the joint auspices of the UNICEF, the WIO and the government of Bangladesh.

Arms recovery
According to Barisal police office, following arms and ammunition have been recovered through special police operations in the district last year.

The arms include rifles-5, guns-5, gun-barrels-1, revolver-5, pipeguns-32, argun-1, bayonets-1, hand bombs-4, ramdao-2, daggers-5, rifle-bullets-56, rounds gun-cartridges-53, empty rifle bullets-3, revolver bullets-3, rounds and bullet changers-1.

Besides during the stipulated time general amnesty for depositing illegal arms following arms and ammunition have been deposited: pipeguns-10, revolver-2, cock tail-2, rifle bullets-6, rounds and gun cartridge-17.

Sahidur Rahman Bhuiyan, SP Bakerganj told that police operations are still going on.

Political science

Tea stalls become campaign centres

Star report
With the election fever gripping Bangladesh, the people in rural areas have begun credible manoeuvres in support of their own candidates. The supporters of political parties are getting more active and with election symbols and banners, they are holding rallies and meetings in support of their candidates.

The hectic campaigns launched by the political activists and hired poor people have generated much enthusiasm among the rural people. Reports of clashes among rival groups of supporters are also pouring in.

In rural hats and bazars, tea stalls and restaurants are making brisk business as the political activists and voters throng there to gossip about party position. To cope with the onrush of the people, some tea stall owners are making new tables and benches to welcome new customers. Now the tea stalls have become campaign centres of different political parties.

Our Rangpur Correspondent writes: Rejection of the nomination papers of the deposed President H. M. Ershad has become the topic of days in Rangpur and the issue hotly debated is upholding the respect of the people of the town to the democratic norms and values. Though at the time of scrutiny, when the Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur as the Returning Officer declared nomination papers of H. M. Ershad rejected, there was a burst of applause among the crowd gathered in front of the Returning Officer's office. Yet there was no untoward incident in spite of the presence of some Jatiya Party leaders and workers as the representatives of Ershad. Since the rejection of the nomination papers of H. M. Ershad it has become the topic debated hotly in every nook and corner. In restaurants, footpaths, hotel and residences, shopping centres and market places it has become the only issue to be discussed. Hectic move among the Jatiya Party men has been observed since the rejection of the nomination papers of Mr. Mozammel Hossain known as Lulu, the younger brother of deposed President and a DGM of Janata Bank at Rangpur kept himself quite busy with the move. They held a gathering on January 14 evening at Shapla Cinema Square of Tetultala area of Rangpur town where the gathering was addressed by Mr. Golam Mostafa Batul, an ex-MP of BNP regime and now Jatiya Party district Secretary and Mr. Mofazzal Hossain ex-MP of ousted Ershad government from Rangpur Sadar constituency. In these speeches they pledged to make the rejection of nomination papers of H. M. Ershad an issue for their movement and cautioned the government of the following consequences. The people of Rangpur have been remaining at fever pitch regarding the issue till the last minute of appeal period is over and the final declaration from the Election Commission comes. When contacted, the leaders of the eight, seven and five party alliances said that they were showing tolerance as mark of respect to democracy.

Manikganj
Our Manikganj Correspondent adds: A meeting of Oikkyo Prakria, UCL and the five-party alliance was held recently on the occasion of submitting nomination papers for the forthcoming parliament election at D. C. court premises. In the meeting, Mr. Tobarak Hossain Ladu, Iqbal Hossain Khan of J. S. D. and Ziauddin of Oikkyo Prakria delivered speech. Mr. Ziauddin submitted his nomination paper for the constituency of Manikganj-2. A lot of supporters of these parties gathered to attend the meeting.

Mr. Delowar Hossain of B. N. P. had also submitted his nomination paper for the constituency of Manikganj-7.

Pirganj
Our Thakurgaon Correspondent writes: About 200 workers of Jatiya Party brought out a procession at Pirganj under Thakurgaon district recently. The procession parade main streets of Pirganj Pourashava, which started from Pirganj Jatiya Party office demanding immediate release of the ousted President Ershad. Messrs Hafizuddin Ahmed, ex-M. P. and Zilla Parishad Chairman, Thakurgaon Advocate Mozharul Islam, Golam Rabbani, Fazluruddin, Moklesur Rahman and Goalam Mostafa took part in the procession.

Our Sylhet Correspondent writes: In all 73 nomination papers have been filed for ensuring parliamentary elections from six constituencies of Sylhet by candidates of different political parties and independent candidates.

Pabna Correspondent states that 47 candidates filed nomination papers from different political parties in five seats of Pabna district. Comrade Tipu Biswas filed for four seats, BNP filed six candidates, Awami League six, Jamaat five, JSD three, Jatiya Party five, CPB two, Islami Okkaya Jote two and independent two.

Ershad will appeal
Our Rangpur Correspondent writes: Jatiya Party is preparing to file appeal with Election Commission against cancellation of nomination papers of former President Ershad by Returning Officer of Rangpur. A special messenger has already left Rangpur for Dhaka bearing certified copy of order of Returning Officer who is Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur. In protest against cancellation of nomination papers of former President, Rangpur Jatiya Party staged a demonstration on Tuesday in some areas of Rangpur town and held protest meeting on Monday last at local Shapla Chatiar. It was addressed by former Jatiya Sangsad Whip Haresuddin Sarker, former Zila Parishad Mofazzal Hossain, district Jatiya Party Secretary Khondker Golam Mostafa Batul and Upazila Chairmen of Sadar, Badarganj and Taraganj.

Cox's Bazar
BSS adds: A total of 51 candidates belonging to different political parties on Sunday filed nomination papers for four parliamentary seats of Cox's Bazar.

Among the total candidates two were female. They were Mrs. Khorsheed Ara Hoq of J. P. and Mrs. Zubeda Kader of Muslim League. Both are contesting from Cox's Bazar-3 seat.

Chittagong
A total of 172 candidates of different political parties have filed nomination papers for 15 parliamentary seats of Chittagong district. Election office sources said.

Maximum number of 19 candidates filed their nomination papers for Chittagong-10 seat while the minimum number of six candidates filed nomination papers for Chittagong-one seat.

Tangail
A total of 90 candidates, including two former ministers and several former Parliament members, filed their nomination papers for eight seats in Tangail district to contest the coming parliament polls.